

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) An outsole, in particular, for athletic shoes which can also be elastically deformed in the tangential direction, characterized by the fact that it essentially is only rigid to a tangential deformation beyond at least one critical point of deformation in the region that is deformed to this critical point.
2. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the critical point of deformation is only reached after a tangential and/or vertical deformation that this is greater than 20 % of its deformable thickness, in particular, greater than 50 % of this thickness.
3. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized by the fact that it comprises two layers that are separated by at least one, in particular, elastically deformable element, wherein said element makes it possible for the two layers to produce a frictional, non-positive and/or positive engagement with one another once a sufficient deformation is reached.
4. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to ~~one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterized by the fact that it is provided with at least one elastically deformable hollow element that contains one or more hollow spaces.

5. (Original) The outsole according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the hollow element comprises a deformable tubular section.
6. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, characterized by the fact that several hollow elements are arranged behind one another in the longitudinal direction of the outsole.
7. (Original) The outsole according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the hollow element contains two outer layers that are connected to one another by deformable webs such that several hollow spaces are formed.
8. (Original) The outsole according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the hollow element contains at least one chamber that is filled with a fluid.
9. (Original) The outsole according to claim 8, characterized by the fact that the hollow element contains at least one air-filled chamber that can be elastically deformed by compressing the air contained therein.
10. (Original) The outsole according to claim 9, characterized by the fact that the air filled into the chamber is subjected to a higher pressure than the atmospheric pressure.

11. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to ~~any one of claims 1-10~~ claim 1, characterized in that this is provided with means ~~(10.1)~~ for detachable fixing to an intermediate sole ~~(4)~~ of a shoe ~~(2)~~, as a whole or, when constructed as multi-part, with reference to at least one of its parts ~~(3, 3')~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to claim 11, characterized in that this is constructed as multi-part and that the individual parts ~~(3, 3')~~ can be detachably attached as desired at different points and/or in different designs to the intermediate sole ~~(4)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to ~~any one of claims 11 or 12~~ claim 11, characterized in that it is constructed as multi-part and that at least two of its parts ~~(3, 3')~~ have a different shaping and/or elasticity.

14. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to ~~any one of claims 11-13~~ claim 11, characterized in that the means for detachable fixing comprise a part ~~(10.1)~~ of a hook and loop fastener ~~(10)~~ and that the intermediate sole ~~(4)~~ is provided with the complementary part ~~(10.2)~~ of this hook and loop fastener ~~(10)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The outsole according to claim 14, characterized in that the means comprise a part ~~(10.1)~~ of the hook and loop fastener ~~(10)~~ provided with hooks.